

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 16, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2001

## SENATE BILL

No. 237

### Introduced by Senator Vincent

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Oropeza and Strom-Martin)

February 14, 2001

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An act to amend Section 1656.3 of, and to add Sections 1666.5 and 21376 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 237, as amended, Vincent. Streets and highways: abandoned animals.

(1) Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to include within the California Driver's Handbook language regarding rail transit safety.

This bill would additionally require the department to include in the handbook language regarding the abandonment or dumping of any animal on a highway, and would provide that, in order to minimize the costs, this new language shall be initially included at the earliest opportunity when the handbook is otherwise revised or reprinted.

(2) Existing law requires the department to administer a written test of those persons seeking driver's licenses or ~~certificates~~ *certificates* of renewal.

This bill would ~~authorize~~ *require* the department to include, *on a rotating basis*, at least one question in ~~each test~~ *at least 20% of the tests* of an applicant's knowledge and understanding of the provisions, to verify that the applicant has read and understands that the abandonment

or dumping of any animal is a criminal offense that can create a severe traffic safety hazard.

(3) Existing law requires the Department of Transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions, to place and maintain, or cause to be placed and maintained, appropriate signs, signals, and other traffic control devices. Under various provisions of existing law, the abandonment of animals is prohibited.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to place and maintain on major state highways entering the state, as specified, a sign that states that the abandonment or dumping of any animal is a crime punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or by confinement in a county jail of up to 6 months, or both.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1656.3 of the Vehicle Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 1656.3. (a) The department shall include within the  
4 California Driver's Handbook, as specified in subdivision (b) of  
5 Section 1656, language regarding each of the following:

6 (1) Rail transit safety.

7 (2) Abandonment or dumping of any animal on a highway.

8 (b) In order to minimize costs, the language referred to in  
9 paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall be initially included at the  
10 earliest opportunity when the handbook is otherwise revised or  
11 reprinted.

12 SEC. 2. Section 1666.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

13 1666.5. The department ~~may~~ shall include, *on a rotating*  
14 *basis*, at least one question in ~~each test~~ *at least 20 percent of the*  
15 *tests* of an applicant's knowledge and understanding of the  
16 provisions of this code, as administered pursuant to Section 12803  
17 or 12814, to verify that the applicant has read and understands that  
18 the abandonment or dumping of any animal is a criminal offense  
19 that can create a severe traffic safety hazard.

20 SEC. 3. Section 21376 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

21 21376. The Department of Transportation shall place and  
22 maintain on each major state highway entering the state within 500  
23 feet after the state line, a sign that states that the abandonment or

1 dumping of any animal is a crime punishable by a fine of up to one  
2 thousand dollars (\$1,000) or confinement in a county jail of up to  
3 six months, or both.

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